

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 NEAE-00
MCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 /107 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6917

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 08854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PEPER MILI EG IS LE US

SUBJECT: FORMIN KAMEL STATEMENT ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: FORMIN KAMEL'S STATEMENT TO PEOPLES
ASSEMBLY WAS LEAD STORY PRESS MARCH 20. KAMEL ACCUSED
ISRAEL OF "EXPANSION" AND "OCCUPATION" OF SOUTH LEBANON,
SAYING ATTACK WAS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY ISRAEL TO
CREATE NEW OBSTACLE TO PEACE AND ESCAPE DILEMMA IN WHICH
GOE PEACE INITIATIVE HAD PLACED IT. KAMEL PORTRAYED GOE
IN FOREFRONT OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO DEFEND ARAB RIGHTS,
END ISRAELI AGGRESSION, AND PUSH FOR JUST AND COMPREHEN-
SIVE PEACE. ASSEMBLY DECLARED SUPPORT OF KAMEL'S
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STATEMENT, BUT DEBATE SHOWED APPREHENSION ABOUT U.S.
ROLE. WHAT EMERGES FROM ASSEMBLY DEBATE AND PRIVATE
VIEWS OF EGYPTIANS IS THAT ISRAEL WILL ONLY WITHDRAW
IMMEDIATELY UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM U.S. AND IF
IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL DOES NOT TAKE PLACE, PEACE
PROCESS DOOMED. CARTER-BEGIN MEETING ON SOUTH LEBANON
THUS CRUCIAL "TEST OF WILLS". END SUMMARY.

2. ALL PAPERS MARCH 20 COVER PROMINENTLY FORMIN KAMEL'S STATEMENT TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. KAMEL CHARACTERIZED ISRAELI ACTION AS "EXPANSIONIST", CLAIMING ISRAEL SOUGHT TO OCCUPY SOUTHERN LEBANON AND STRIKE DOWN PALESTINIANS. HE ACCUSED ISRAEL OF MOUNTING RAID TO CREATE NEW OBSTACLE TO PEACE, TO DIVERT ATTENTION, AND TO ESCAPE THE DILEMMA IN WHICH GOE PEACE EFFORTS HAVE PLACED HER. KAMEL REITERATED CALL FOR COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST PEACE, RECOGNIZING PALESTINIAN LEGITIMATE RIGHTS, WHICH WILL ENHANCE REAL SECURITY NOT POSSIBLE THROUGH "BORDERS AND FORTIFICATIONS."

3. KAMEL PLACED GOE ON SIDE OF ANGELS AS MOST CONSTANT DEFENDER OF ARAB RIGHTS AND AS BASTION IN FACE OF ISRAELI "AGGRESSION AND EXPANSION". HE REAFFIRMED GOE SUPPORT OF LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS AGAINST ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND SAID GOE HAD ACTED QUICKLY "IN ALL DIRECTIONS" TO END ISRAELI ACTIONS, BRING ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON, SAFEGUARD THE PALESTINIAN FORCES, AND SAFEGUARD LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. GOE SOUGHT TO "REDIRECT EFFORTS TO THEIR CORRECT COURSE", NAMELY TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. KAMEL SAID GOE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE TO HOLDING OF ARAB SUMMIT AND WELCOMED STEPS TO UNIFY ARAB STANCE IN FACE OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION. HE CALLED ON ALL COUNTRIES,

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PARTICULARLY FIVE BIG POWERS, TO "SHOULDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES" TO END THE AGGRESSION AND OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL.

4. IN ASSEMBLY DEBATE BEFORE KAMEL STATEMENT, MEMBERS CALLED FOR U.S. TO ACT TO END AGGRESSION, DOUBTED THAT ISRAEL WOULD WITHDRAW (ONE MEMBER EXPECTED HER TO CONSTRUCT SETTLEMENTS), AND CALLED FOR FORMATION OF COMMITTEES TO TOUR ARAB COUNTRIES TO PATCH UP INTER-ARAB DIFFERENCES. INDEPENDENT KAMEL AHMED CALLED FOR EGYPTIAN VOLUNTEERS TO DEFEND PLO. FOLLOWING STATEMENT, CENTER PARTY MEMBER NOTED THAT ISRAEL WAS USING AMERICAN F-15 PLANES AGAINST A COUNTRY NOT PARTY TO CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL. WAFD DELEGATE SAID GOE SHOULD SUPPLY MATERIAL AID TO LEBANON AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. WAFD DELEGATE DESPAIRED OF REACHING PEACE WITH ISRAEL BECAUSE OF LATTER'S EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS. HE CALLED ON ARABS TO UNIFY THEIR EFFORTS AND SAID GOE SHOULD RECONSIDER ITS RELATIONS WITH SUPERPOWERS. THERE IS NO NEED, HE SAID, FOR GOE TO "FAN FLAMES OF HOSTILITY" WITH USSR. RATHER GOE MUST HAVE FLEXIOTE POLICY. LEFTIST DELEGATE ACCUSED U.S. OF GIVING GREEN LIGHT FOR ISRAELI ACTION.

ASSEMBLY ENDED BY APPROVING KAMEL STATEMENT AND STEPS
TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT. ASSEMBLY ALSO AGREED TO REFER
DISCUSSION OF SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION, INCLUDING PROPOSAL
ON EGYPTIAN VOLUNTEERS, TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FOR STUDY.

5. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. PRESS REPORTS THAT GOE WILL SEND
MEDICAL MISSION COMPOSED OF TEN PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL
SUPPLIES TO AID PALESTINIANS. IN MEANWHILE, ARAB LEAGUE
HAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO OFFER 200,000 DOLS WORTH OF
MEDICAL AID AND HAS APPEALED TO MEMBERS TO OFFER MORE.

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6. COMMENT: ASSEMBLY DEBATE AND WHAT WE HEARING
FROM EGYPTIANS CLEARLY INDICATE THEY BELIEVE ISRAEL WILL
NOT WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON UNLESS THERE IS STRONG
U.S. PRESSURE ON HER TO DO SO. THUS, EGYPTIANS SEE
BEGIN-CARTER VISIT AS TEST OF WILLS. THERE IS FEELING
THAT UNLESS ISRAELIS IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH
LEBANON, PEACE PROCESS DOOMED. EILTS

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